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EXAMINER

STERRETT, JONATHAN G

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3623

DATE MAILED: 06/01/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/886,362

Applicant(s)

INNES ET AL.

Examiner

Jonathan G. Sterrett

Art Unit

3623

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 June 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Summary

1. Claims 1-20 are pending in the application. The instant application deals with a system and method for providing risk management. More specifically, the invention deals with providing a means to store and report risk and abatement information dealing with a particular project. The application of a method and system to enable risk management tools that are used in project management enables a team-based approach to risk management through providing web-based tools. In this system, various risk management elements are identified and assessed to provide a thorough, proactive means to conduct risk management in a project context.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

3. **Claims 1, 2, 9, 10 and 17** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by **RiskTrak Software Product** as disclosed in the following documents:

"RiskTrak Project Risk Management Software", **March 6, 2000**, pp.1-2,
web.archive.org/web/20000306225414/http://risktrak.com/, hereafter referred to as
Reference U1.

"Features and Benefits of RiskTrak Risk Management Software", **November 4, 1999**, pp.1-2, web.archive.org/web/19991104135754/http://risktrak.com/feature.htm, hereafter referred to as **Reference V1**.

"RiskTrak Risk Management Software for DoD Program Management and Program Management and Earned Value", **October 7, 2000**, pp.1-5, web.archive.org/web/20001007025716/http://risktrak.com/dod.htm, hereafter referred to as **Reference W1**.

"RiskTrak is an Integrated Tool for the Management of Cost, Schedule & Technical Risk", **November 21, 2000**, pp.1-5, web.archive.org/web/20001121221300/http://risktrak.com/evms.htm, hereafter referred to as **Reference X1**.

Regarding **Claim 1**, RiskTrak discloses:

defining impact criteria for all risks of a project,

Reference X1 page 2 paragraph 3 line 2-6, impact criteria for all and any project risk can be defined during project setup based on weight factors and probabilities

identifying a plurality of risks associated with the project;

Reference X1 page 2 paragraph 2 line 1-3, a plurality of risks can be identified and structured according to project planning methodology, e.g., WBS or other.

storing, in a database, risk information on at least one risk of the plurality of risks,

Reference V1 page 1 paragraph 4 line 1, all risk information can be stored in any ODBC-relational database.

assessing at least one risk of the plurality of risks using the defined impact criteria;

Reference W1 page 2 paragraph 6 line 1-2, RiskTrak provides for continuous risk assessment based on impact criteria defined above during project setup.

preparing at least one abatement corresponding to at least one risk of the plurality of risks;

Reference W1 page 2 paragraph 5 line 6, mitigation (i.e. abatement), is prepared for each program risk.

storing, in the database, abatement information on the at least one abatement,

Reference W1 page 2 paragraph 8 line 1-2, all project risk information, including abatement information is stored in the RiskTrak database.

monitoring the plurality of risks associated with the project as the project is completed;

Reference W1 page 2 paragraph 6 line 1-2, RiskTrak provides continuous monitoring of risks and the associated mitigation (i.e. abatement) plans during the life of the project.

Reference W1 page 2 paragraph 8 line 1-2, RiskTrak can be used throughout the life of a program for risk management.

updating the risk information and the abatement information in the

database as the project is completed; and

Reference X1 page 2 paragraph 5, complete visibility to all program or project risks are provided throughout the life of the project.

Reference V1 page 1 paragraph 2 line 1-2, Risk and Mitigation (i.e. abatement) information can be updated to the database in real time, 24 hours a day, during the entire length of the project, including as the project is completed.

repeating the steps of monitoring the plurality of risks and updating the risk information and the abatement information in the database until each risk of the plurality of risks is indicated as finished.

Reference V1 page 1 paragraph 2 line 1-2, Risk and Mitigation (i.e. abatement) information can be updated to the database continuously during the entire length of the project, from start to finish.

Reference W1 page 2 paragraph 6 line 1-2, risks can be continuously assessed and monitored throughout the life of a project – this is a DoD requirement met by RiskTrak.

Regarding **Claim 2**, RiskTrak discloses:

automatically generating a report having risk information and abatement information from the database.

Reference X1 page 3 paragraph 6 line 1-3, risk management and contingency plans are automatically generated from RiskTrak's database.

Reference V1 page 1 paragraph 5 line 1-4, project status reports are available with a single mouse click. These reports include risk and abatement information.

Claims 9 and 10 recite similar limitations as those recited in **Claims 1 and 2** and are therefore rejected under the same rationale.

Regarding **Claim 17**, Risktrak discloses:

adding an additional risk to the plurality of risks for the project;

Reference X1 Page 4 paragraph 4 line 3, new risks can be entered immediately upon receipt of new information.

Reference W1 Page 3 paragraph 4 line 1-2, an unlimited number of risks can be entered into the database.

adding an additional abatement corresponding to at least one risk of the plurality of risks;

Reference X1 page 2 paragraph 7 line 1-5, project mitigations (i.e. abatements) corresponding to project risks can be added to a project baseline through a drag and drop interface.

removing a risk from the plurality of risks for the project; and

Reference X1 page 4 paragraph 5 line 1-3, changes to risks for the project are updated in real time. This includes removing a risk due to changes in risk where the risk is eliminated, either due to other external changes or the effects of a mitigation (i.e. abatement) plan.

removing an abatement corresponding to at least one risk of the plurality of risks.

Reference X1 page 4 paragraph 5 line 1-3, changes to mitigation (i.e. abatement) for the project are updated in real time. This includes removing a mitigation due to it being effective in eliminating a risk.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. **Claims 3-8, 11-16 and 18-20** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over RiskTrak in view of Link.

Link, Jo Lee Loveland; Barbour, Rick; Krum, Al; Neitzel, August; Rollout and Installation of Risk Management at the IMINT Directorate, National Reconnaissance", December 1999, Technical Report CMU/SEI-99-TR-009, ESC-TR-99-009. pp.1-191. <http://www.sei.cmu.edu/pub/documents/99.reports/pdf/99tr009.pdf>.

Regarding **Claim 3**, RiskTrak teaches all the limitations of Claim 2 above, and also teaches:

providing additional risk information and abatement information from the database.

Reference X1 page 3 paragraph 6 line 1-3, risk management and contingency plans (i.e. contingency plans are abatement information) are provided from RiskTrak's database

RiskTrak does not teach:

wherein the report is a waterfall chart and the step of monitoring the plurality of risks further comprises a step of providing additional risk information and abatement information from the database in response to a selection of a point on the waterfall chart.

Link teaches:

wherein the report is a waterfall chart and the step of monitoring the plurality of risks further comprises a step of providing additional risk information and abatement information in response to a selection of a point on the waterfall chart.

Page 185, this is a waterfall chart used to monitor risk mitigation (i.e. abatement) monitoring

Page 184 line 7, links are provided to return users to related areas; these links would include the selection of a point on the waterfall chart. Related areas would provide additional risk and abatement information because the waterfall chart is a graph of project management plans to abate and mitigate risks in the future.

Link teaches the use of the waterfall chart promotes efficiency in project reviews and in developing a broad system understanding (Page 66 paragraph 5.2.3.4 line 1-4). This is an important consideration when applying risk management to complex projects where the plethora of reporting detail makes it difficult to understand the larger implications of what is occurring in the project.

RiskTrak and Link are analogous art because both deal with the application of tools and methodologies to provide risk management.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the teachings of RiskTrak, regarding providing risk management tools and methodologies, to include providing a waterfall chart and additional risk and abatement information in response to a selection of a point on the waterfall chart, as taught by Link, because it would improve the efficiency in conducting a risk management review, as taught by Link.

Regarding **Claim 4**, RiskTrak teaches all the limitations of Claim 1 above, but does not teach

wherein the step of defining impact criteria further comprises a step of defining impact criteria for at least one issue selected from the group consisting of technical issues, scheduling issues and cost issues.

Link teaches:

wherein the step of defining impact criteria further comprises a step of defining impact criteria for at least one issue selected from the group consisting of technical issues, scheduling issues and cost issues.

Page 66 Table 4 defines impact criteria for a system level risk consisting of technical issues (e.g. control of vehicle), scheduling and cost issues. The impact criteria are defined in terms of low, medium, and high probabilities.

Link teaches that their approach for risk management would result in significant savings and technical reliability for mission-critical systems (Page 12 paragraph 2.3 line 1-4).

RiskTrak and Link are analogous art because both deal with the application of tools and methodologies to provide risk management.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the teachings of RiskTrak, regarding providing risk management tools and methodologies, to include defining impact criteria for technical, cost and scheduling issues, as taught by Link, because it would provide significant cost savings during development and ensure technical reliability, as taught by Link.

Regarding **Claim 5**, RiskTrak teaches all the limitations of Claim 1 above and teaches:

Assigning of weight factors and probabilities in analyzing and managing risk (Reference X1 page 2 paragraph 3 line 1-6).

RiskTrak does not teach:

providing a probability determination for at least one risk;
providing a technical impact determination for at least one risk;
providing a cost impact determination for at least one risk; and
providing a schedule impact determination for at least one risk.

Link teaches:

providing a probability determination for at least one risk;

Page 66 Table 4, probability determinations are provided in row 2 "Probability of Occurrence" for the risk outlined in this table.

providing a technical impact determination for at least one risk;

Page 66 Table 4, a technical impact determination is provided across various probability categories, e.g. ranging from lack of vehicle control to total vehicle control.

providing a cost impact determination for at least one risk; and

Page 66 Table 4, a cost impact is provided, e.g. ranging from >\$5 million at a high risk probability to <\$1million for a low probability.

providing a schedule impact determination for at least one risk.

Page 66 Table 4, a schedule impact determination is provided that measures the schedule impacts at high, medium and low risk.

Link teaches that their approach for risk management would result in significant savings and technical reliability for mission-critical systems (Page 12 paragraph 2.3 line 1-4).

RiskTrak and Link are analogous art because both deal with the application of tools and methodologies to provide risk management.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the teachings of RiskTrak, regarding providing risk management tools and methodologies, to include providing a probability determination and a technical, cost and schedule impact determination, as taught by Link, because it would provide significant cost savings during development and ensure technical reliability, as taught by Link.

Regarding **Claim 6**, RiskTrak teaches all the limitations of Claim 1 above but does not teach:

providing an estimated probability determination of the at least one abatement corresponding to at least one risk;

providing an estimated technical impact determination of the at least

one abatement corresponding to at least one risk;

**providing an estimated cost impact determination of the at least one
abatement corresponding to at least one risk; and**

**providing an estimated schedule impact determination of the at least
one abatement corresponding to at least one risk.**

Link teaches that program and project risks can be attributed into technical, cost, schedule and probability factors (Page 66 Table 4).

Link also teaches:

**providing an estimated probability determination of the at least one
abatement corresponding to at least one risk;**

Page 66 Table 4 shows that risks are categorized in terms of probabilities, as does Page 138 Figure 3, which shows how various risks are anticipated to move in the probability/impact continuum.

Page 67 paragraph 5.2.3.7. "Waterfall Chart" provides an estimated probability determination of a mitigation strategy (i.e. abatement) corresponding to at least one risk. The waterfall chart tracks and forecasts the impact an abatement will have on risk.

**providing an estimated technical impact determination of the at least
one abatement corresponding to at least one risk;**

Page 67 paragraph 5.2.3.7. "Waterfall Chart" provides an estimated probability determination of a mitigation strategy (i.e. abatement) corresponding to at least one risk,

including technical impacts. The waterfall chart tracks and forecasts the impact an abatement will have on risk, including technical risks.

providing an estimated cost impact determination of the at least one abatement corresponding to at least one risk; and

Page 67 paragraph 5.2.3.7. "Waterfall Chart" provides an estimated probability determination of a mitigation strategy (i.e. abatement) corresponding to at least one risk, including cost impacts. The waterfall chart tracks and forecasts the impact an abatement will have on risk, including cost risks.

providing an estimated schedule impact determination of the at least one abatement corresponding to at least one risk.

Page 67 paragraph 5.2.3.7. "Waterfall Chart" provides an estimated probability determination of a mitigation strategy (i.e. abatement) corresponding to at least one risk, including schedule impacts. The waterfall chart tracks and forecasts the impact an abatement will have on risk, including schedule risks.

Link teaches that their approach for risk management would result in significant savings and technical reliability for mission-critical systems (Page 12 paragraph 2.3 line 1-4).

RiskTrak and Link are analogous art because both deal with the application of tools and methodologies to provide risk management.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the teachings of RiskTrak, regarding providing risk management tools and methodologies, to include providing abatement effects upon probability, technical, cost and schedule risks, as taught by Link, because it would provide significant cost savings during development and ensure technical reliability, as taught by Link.

Regarding **Claim 7**, RiskTrak teaches all the limitations of Claim 1 above but does not teach:

providing an actual probability determination of the at least one abatement corresponding to at least one risk based on actual performance of the at least one abatement;

providing an actual technical impact determination of the at least one abatement corresponding to at least one risk based on actual performance of the at least one abatement;

providing an actual cost impact determination of the at least one abatement corresponding to at least one risk based on actual performance of the at least one abatement; and

providing an actual schedule issue impact determination of the at least one abatement corresponding to at least one risk based on actual performance of the at least one abatement.

Link teaches:

providing an actual probability determination of the at least one abatement corresponding to at least one risk based on actual performance of the at least one abatement;

Page 67 paragraph 5.2.3.7, waterfall charts provide a probability determination of an abatement corresponding to at least one risk based on the performance of the abatement. The waterfall charts track progress of a mitigation plan to see how they are effective or not in reducing a particular risk item.

Page 185 illustrates a waterfall chart and how the mitigation (i.e., abatement) program reduced the project risk

providing an actual technical impact determination of the at least one abatement corresponding to at least one risk based on actual performance of the at least one abatement;

Page 67 paragraph 5.2.3.7, the waterfall chart is used to describe progress in reducing risk exposure (both in terms of impact and probability) from a mitigation (i.e. abatement) standpoint. Link teaches that program risks have three components, one of which is technical risk – see page 66 Table 4.

providing an actual cost impact determination of the at least one abatement corresponding to at least one risk based on actual performance of the at least one abatement; and

Page 67 paragraph 5.2.3.7, the waterfall chart is used to describe progress in reducing risk exposure (both in terms of impact and probability) from a mitigation (i.e.

abatement) standpoint. Link teaches that program risks have three components, one of which is cost risk– see page 66 Table 4..

providing an actual schedule issue impact determination of the at least one abatement corresponding to at least one risk based on actual performance of the at least one abatement.

Page 67 paragraph 5.2.3.7, the waterfall chart is used to describe progress in reducing risk exposure (both in terms of impact and probability) from a mitigation (i.e. abatement) standpoint. Link teaches that program risks have three components, one of which is schedule risk– see page 66 Table 4.

Link teaches that their approach for risk management would result in significant savings and technical reliability for mission-critical systems (Page 12 paragraph 2.3 line 1-4).

RiskTrak and Link are analogous art because both deal with the application of tools and methodologies to provide risk management.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the teachings of RiskTrak, regarding providing risk management tools and methodologies, to include providing abatement effects upon probability, technical, cost and schedule risks, based upon abatement performance, as taught by

Link, because it would provide significant cost savings during development and ensure technical reliability, as taught by Link.

Regarding **Claim 8**, RiskTrak teaches all the limitations of Claim 1 above and teaches:

Reference V1 page 1 paragraph 8, users utilize a database to store risk information.

Reference W1 page 2 paragraph 5 line 3, uses an SQL engine to query application, thus RiskTrak utilizes a database since SQL is a database query language.

RiskTrak does not teach
displaying risk information from the database in a table; and displaying abatement information from the database in a table.

Link teaches:
displaying risk information from the database in a table; and displaying abatement information from the database in a table.

Page 66 Table 4, displays risk information into a table so that users can see the various categories, probabilities and impacts of project risks.

Page 187, the Risk Stoplight Chart displays abatement information in a table form.

Link teaches that their approach for risk management would result in significant savings and technical reliability for mission-critical systems (Page 12 paragraph 2.3 line 1-4).

RiskTrak and Link are analogous art because both deal with the application of tools and methodologies to provide risk management.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the teachings of RiskTrak, regarding providing risk management tools and methodologies and storing risk information in a database, to include providing risk and abatement information in a table, as taught by Link, because it would provide significant cost savings during development and ensure technical reliability, as taught by Link.

Claims 11-16 recite similar limitations as those recited in **Claims 3-8** and are therefore rejected under the same rationale.

Regarding **Claim 18**, RiskTrak teaches all the limitations in Claims 1 and 2 above except for:

a server computer, said server computer comprising a storage device and a processor,

Reference V1 page 1 paragraph 1, RiskTrak runs on any type of network and software/hardware combination. This would include running on a network server where the server comprises a storage device and processor.

a risk management application to analyze and manage risks associated with a project,

Reference V1 page 1 paragraph 1 line 2-3, Risktrak provides an organization the capability to analyze and manage risks through communication and reporting.

said risk management application being stored in said storage device of said server computer, said risk management application further comprising:

Reference V1 page 1 paragraph 1, Since RiskTrak runs on any hardware/software combination, this would include being stored in a storage device of a server computer running the software on a network.

a database, said database storing information relating to said project,

Reference X1 page 1 paragraph 4 line 1-6, RiskTrak stores information related to said project (in this case Earned Value information) in a relational database.

RiskTrak does not teach:

means for calculating a risk score for said assessed at least one risk, said risk score being based on said assessment;

Official Notice is taken that the concept of providing a risk score for a project based on an assessment of that risk is old and well known in the art. An example of this type of methodology is the FMEA technique pioneered in the Apollo Program in the late 1960's. FMEA (Failure Mode Effect Analysis) is a scoring method based on the assessment of a risk's severity (how bad would a failure be?), frequency (how likely is the failure to happen), and detectability (how easily would we know a failure occurred?).

Each risk is assessed a score in these three categories based on a team's assessment for that particular risk. The three scores are multiplied together to come up with a Risk Priority Number (RPN). The RPN gives the team a quantitative measure of the risk to help prioritize it in comparison to other risks. So scoring the risk in such a manner as FMEA gives a project team a baseline in which to compare risks and decide which risk deserves greater attention. Risks are prioritized in order from greatest Risk Priority Number to the least. FMEA proved to be an effective way to focus on risks that provided the greatest threat to the Apollo mission.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the teachings of RiskTrak, regarding providing a network based risk management software program, to include where that program provides a means for scoring risks based on assessment of those risks, as is known in the art, because it would provide a way for a project team to prioritize risks in order to eliminate the most potentially damaging risks to the project.

Regarding **Claim 19**, RiskTrak teaches all the limitations of Claim 18 above and also teaches:

means for creating a new project, said means for creating a new project comprising means for providing project information, said project information being stored in said database,

Reference X1 page 2 paragraph 3 line 3-6, the project setup feature allows a new project to be created and project information to be entered.

Reference X1 page 1 paragraph 4 line 1-6, RiskTrak stores information related to projects in a relational database.

means for selecting a project from a plurality of projects;

Reference X1 page 3 paragraph 5 line 1-3. a project can be selected from a group of multiple projects for the purpose of providing reports.

Reference X1 page 4 paragraph 2 line 2, a project can be selected for the purpose of comparing it to other projects.

means for updating said project information stored in said database;

Reference X1 page 4 paragraph 4 line 3, new risk information can be updated into project information.

Reference X1 page 1 paragraph 4 line 4, RiskTrak uses a relational database to store project and risk information.

RiskTrak teaches using a database to store risk and project information and using SQL to query the database to obtain risk and project information (Reference V1 page 1 paragraph 5 line 1-3).

RiskTrak does not teach:

means for displaying a risk summary table, said risk summary table including risk information from said database; and

means for displaying an abatement summary table, said abatement summary table including abatement information from said database.

Link teaches:

means for displaying a risk summary table, said risk summary table including risk information from said database; and

Page 189, the risk summary sheet displays a risk summary table that contains risk information.

means for displaying an abatement summary table, said abatement summary table including abatement information from said database

Page 187, the risk stoplight chart contains abatement summary information in a table format.

Link teaches that their approach for risk management would result in significant savings and technical reliability for mission-critical systems (Page 12 paragraph 2.3 line 1-4).

RiskTrak and Link are analogous art because both deal with the application of tools and methodologies to provide risk management.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the teachings of RiskTrak, regarding providing risk management tools and methodologies and storing risk information in a database, to include providing a risk summary table and abatement summary table, as taught by Link, because it would provide significant cost savings during development and ensure technical reliability, as taught by Link.

Regarding **Claim 20**, RiskTrak teaches all the limitations of Claim 18 above and also teaches:

at least one client computer is in communication with said server computer over an intranet;

Reference V1 page 1 paragraph 1, RiskTrak runs on any type of network and software/hardware combination. This would include where at least one client computer is in communication with a server computer over an Intranet.

said means for updating further comprises: means for adding risk information to said database on an additional risk to said plurality of risks;

Reference X1 Page 4 paragraph 4 line 3, new risks can be entered immediately upon receipt of new information.

Reference W1 Page 3 paragraph 4 line 1-2, an unlimited number of risks can be entered into the database

means for adding abatement information to said database on an additional abatement corresponding to at least one risk of said plurality of risks;

Reference X1 page 2 paragraph 7 line 1-5, project mitigations (i.e. abatements) corresponding to project risks can be added to a project baseline through a drag and drop interface

means for editing risk information in said database on a risk of said plurality of risks,

Reference V1 page 1 paragraph 2 line 1-3, risk information can be updated, which would include editing the risk information in RiskTrak's database.

means for editing abatement information in said database on an abatement corresponding to at least one risk of said plurality of risks;

Reference X1 page 4 paragraph 8 line 1-2, changes, including abatement information can be made throughout the life of a project.

means for removing risk information from said database on a risk of said plurality of risks; and

Reference X1 page 4 paragraph 5 line 1-3, changes to risks for the project are updated in real time. This includes removing a risk information due to changes in risk where the risk is eliminated, either due to other external changes or the effects of a mitigation (i.e. abatement) plan

means for removing abatement information from said database on an abatement corresponding to at least one risk of said plurality of risks.

Reference X1 page 4 paragraph 5 line 1-3, changes to mitigation (i.e. abatement) for the project are updated in real time. This includes removing mitigation information as the mitigation over the course of a project.

RiskTrak also teaches a Microsoft Windows™ based application (Reference V1 page 2 paragraph 4 line 1-3) that uses a database.

RiskTrak does not teach:

said risk management application is configured for execution in a web browser.

Official Notice is taken that it is old and well known in the art of web-based applications to provide a web browser for interaction with a database. The use of a thin client (i.e. browser) to provide functionality over an intranet or internet allows for the flexibility provided by distributed computing.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the teachings of RiskTrak, regarding providing risk management tools and methodologies and storing risk information in a database, to include providing a web browser to access a risk management application on a server, because it would provide the flexibility of distributed computing to allow a wide variety of users to easily access the risk management application over network.

RiskTrak does not teach:

said risk impact criteria comprises at least one criteria selected from the group consisting of technical impact criteria, schedule impact criteria and cost impact criteria;

said means for providing an assessment comprises means for providing an impact assessment for said risk impact criteria, said impact assessment including a high impact assessment, a medium impact assessment and a low impact assessment, and

Link teaches:

said risk impact criteria comprises at least one criteria selected from the group consisting of technical impact criteria, schedule impact criteria and cost impact criteria;

Page 66 Table 4 defines risk impact criteria for a system level risk consisting of technical issues (e.g. control of vehicle), scheduling and cost issues. The impact criteria are defined in terms of low, medium and high probabilities.

said means for providing an assessment comprises means for providing an impact assessment for said risk impact criteria, said impact assessment including a high impact assessment, a medium impact assessment and a low impact assessment,

Page 66 Table 4 defines impact criteria for a system level risk consisting of technical issues (e.g. control of vehicle), scheduling and cost issues. The impact criteria are defined in terms of low, medium and high assessments.

Link teaches that their approach for risk management would result in significant savings and technical reliability for mission-critical systems (Page 12 paragraph 2.3 line 1-4).

RiskTrak and Link are analogous art because both deal with the application of tools and methodologies to provide risk management.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the teachings of RiskTrak, regarding providing risk management tools and methodologies, to include defining risk impact criteria and providing assessments for the risk impact criteria, as taught by Link, because it would provide

significant cost savings during development and ensure technical reliability, as taught by Link.

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

US 2004/0199445 by Eder discloses a business activity management system for identifying and measuring value and risk associated with a business enterprise.

US 2002/0059093 by Barton discloses a system and method for identifying and quantifying risks associated with compliance programs.

US 2001/0027389 by Beverina discloses an integrated risk management tool for assessing risk in various real world applications.

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Department of Defense Regulation, Number 5000.2-R, March 15, 1996, Subject: Mandatory Procedures for Major Defense Acquisition Programs (MDAPs) and Major Automated Information System (MAIS) Acquisition Programs, parts 1-6, appendices I-VI.


Conclusion

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jonathan G. Sterrett whose telephone number is 703-305-0550. The examiner can normally be reached on 8-6.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tariq Hafiz can be reached on 703-305-9643. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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